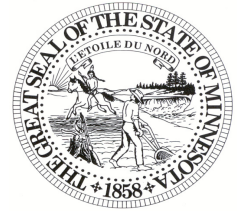




STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



Issued: July 10, 2009

NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE

**In the Matter of a Site Permit Application for the 10.5 MW
New Ulm Wind Project in Nicollet County, Minnesota**

PUC Docket Number: E282/WS-09-178

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the New Ulm Public Utility Commission (NUPUC) has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a site permit to build and operate a large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) of up to 10.5 megawatts (MW) in Lafayette Township located approximately 5 miles north of the city of New Ulm. The Commission accepted the site permit application on June 26, 2009.

Project Description. The NUPUC proposes to install 5 wind turbine generators and anticipates an in-service date of December 2010. The NUPUC proposes to use 5 Vestas V82, 1.65 MW wind turbine generators mounted on freestanding tubular steel towers. The towers will be 80 meters (262 feet) in height measured at the hub. The rotor diameter will be 82 meters (269 feet). The maximum overall height of the wind turbines will be approximately 121 meters (397 feet) above grade when one blade is in the vertical position.

An electrical system consisting of underground collection and feeder lines will deliver power to an on-site substation and then either connect to the MISO transmission system located along the south side of the Project site or to a transmission line to be constructed to interconnect with the New Ulm system. Other associated facilities will include pad mounted step-up transformers and turbine access roads. A meteorological tower was installed at the Project site on November 24, 2008, and will be left for data collection.

Proposed Site Location. The Project site is located in Nicollet County in Lafayette Township. The NUPUC is currently negotiating with local landowners in proximity to the Project site to obtain lease and easement agreements to meet Minnesota PUC setback requirements. The Project boundary encompasses approximately 547 acres. As of the date of the application, the NUPUC had entered into lease and easement agreements with landowners for approximately 237 acres.

Site Permit Review Process. The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security (OES), on behalf of the Commission is initiating the permit review process for this project under the Wind Siting Act (Minn. Stat. § 216F) and Wind Permitting Rules (Minn. Rules 7836). Upon completion of this process, the OES will present the record of this matter to the Commission for a final permit decision.

The OES is currently soliciting comments on issues that should be included in development of the draft site permit for this project (see below). Based on comments received, OES staff will prepare and submit a draft site permit to the Commission for consideration. If approved, the draft site permit will be issued for public review and comment. A public meeting will be held in the project area and members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and present comments. Persons on the mailing list for this project (see below) will receive notice of all public and Commission meetings.

Public Comments. The OES is soliciting comments on issues that should be considered in developing the draft site permit for this project. Such issues include unique characteristics of the proposed site or project that should be considered, and items that may be missing or mischaracterized in the site permit application. Interested persons may comment until **July 31, 2009**. Please include the project docket number (E282/WS-09-178) on all comments. Comments should be mailed, emailed or faxed to the OES Project Manager identified below.

Project Contacts and Information. If you have questions or if you would like further information about this project please contact:

Larry Hartman, Project Manager
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 296-5089
Fax: 651-297-7891
larry.hartman@state.mn.us

Deborah Pile, Public Advisor
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 297-2375
deborah.pile@state.mn.us

Persons interested in adding their names to the Department of Commerce mailing list for this project should contact the project manager, public advisor, or register online at:
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us>

Questions about the Project and site permit application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Mr. Patrick Wrase, Tel (507)359-8202; patrick.wrase@ci.new-ulm.mn.us.

The site permit application and other documents relevant to the proposed project are available on the Commission's website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=20053>, and on the Department of Commerce's eDocket website:
<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the docket number 09-178).

Copies of the application are also available for review at the public libraries in St. Peter and New Ulm, the Auditor's Offices in Brown and Nicollet counties, the city offices in New Ulm and with the clerk of Lafayette Township.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651-210-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).